

STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE:  INTERSTATE POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY	DOCKET NO. WRU-02-45-150
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**ORDER GRANTING TEMPORARY WAIVER**

(Issued January 6, 2003)

On November 21, 2002, Interstate Power and Light Company (IPL) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) a request for temporary waiver of certain sections of 199 IAC 20.18(5)"a." This rule, which is part of the new electric reliability rules effective on December 18, 2002, contains the record-keeping requirements for electric utilities with over 50,000 Iowa retail customers. On November 22, 2002, the Consumer Advocate Division of the Department of Justice filed a response stating it had no objection to IPL's temporary waiver request. No other responses or objections to the request were filed.

In support of its request, IPL states it does not currently have all the systems in place to fully comply with section 20.18(5)"a." IPL asks for the waiver only until, at the latest, July 1, 2003. At that time, IPL plans to have completed updating its current outage management system (OMS) so that it can fully comply with the new rules.

Specifically, IPL is not able to fully comply with subsections 20.18(5)"a"(1)(4) and "a"(2)(7) because it is unable to provide service interruption information about individual distribution circuits when issues associated with the transmission system or substation cause outages. In addition, IPL's current system cannot sectionalize information about underground distribution circuits such that information required by subsections 20.18(5)"a"(2)(2) and "a"(2)(3) on outage duration and restoration time is unavailable. Finally, IPL's system cannot track all the outage cause codes the subsection requires, such as "earthquake" and "clear day."

In its request, IPL states that it is in the process of updating its OMS system but that "the update is dependent on the software vendor's release of a new version." IPL further states that "[a]t this time, IPL does not expect the upgrade of its OMS system to be completed until June 2003." The Board is concerned that full compliance with the Board's reliability rules is dependent on a software vendor's upgrade, particularly when IPL did not indicate during the rule making process that it would be unable to comply with the rules subject to the waiver request. Nevertheless, because full compliance is not possible with IPL's current system, the Board will grant the waiver until July 1, 2003. However, the Board encourages IPL to complete the upgrade as soon as possible so that IPL can be in full compliance prior to the expiration of the waiver. The Board does not intend to grant any further extension.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

The request for temporary waiver filed by Interstate Power and Light Company on November 21, 2002, is granted.

**UTILITIES BOARD**

/s/ Diane Munns

/s/ Mark O. Lambert

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper  
Executive Secretary

/s/ Elliott Smith

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2003.